



2023

Annual Report

Contents

01	Commander's Message
02	About Us
03	Investigations
04	Arrests
05	Searches / Seizures
06	Significant Activity

1

Commander's Message

As I reflect on the past year, I can't help but be amazed at the complexity and depth of the HUNT investigations. HUNT detectives have expanded on what was considered a one-dimensional endeavor to what is now a highly advanced and technological investigative resource for our service area. Cases have expanded past the delivery of narcotics into the entire criminal network which fuels drug trafficking organizations.

Methamphetamine and fentanyl and are now the predominate drugs in circulation. Dealers have changed the manner in which they communicate, pay for drugs, and distribute the drugs. This requires HUNT to continuously adapt and evolve the way we track and ultimately arrest those responsible.

Team members continue to be extremely motivated, willingly spending exhaustive hours in order to navigate each investigation into a successful conclusion. Members seek out opportunities to receive specialized training to become more efficient detectives, both in their current assignment and for years to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to command such a fine group of officers, and provide this valuable service to our community.

D/Lt. Stuart Sharp, Team Commander

2

About Us

The Huron Undercover Narcotics Team (HUNT) is a multi-jurisdictional task force governed under an inter-local Agreement between the counties of Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Presque Isle, the cities of Alpena and Rogers City, and the Michigan State Police. The Board of Directors is comprised of members from each of those entities, as is the Advisory Board.

Goals and Objectives

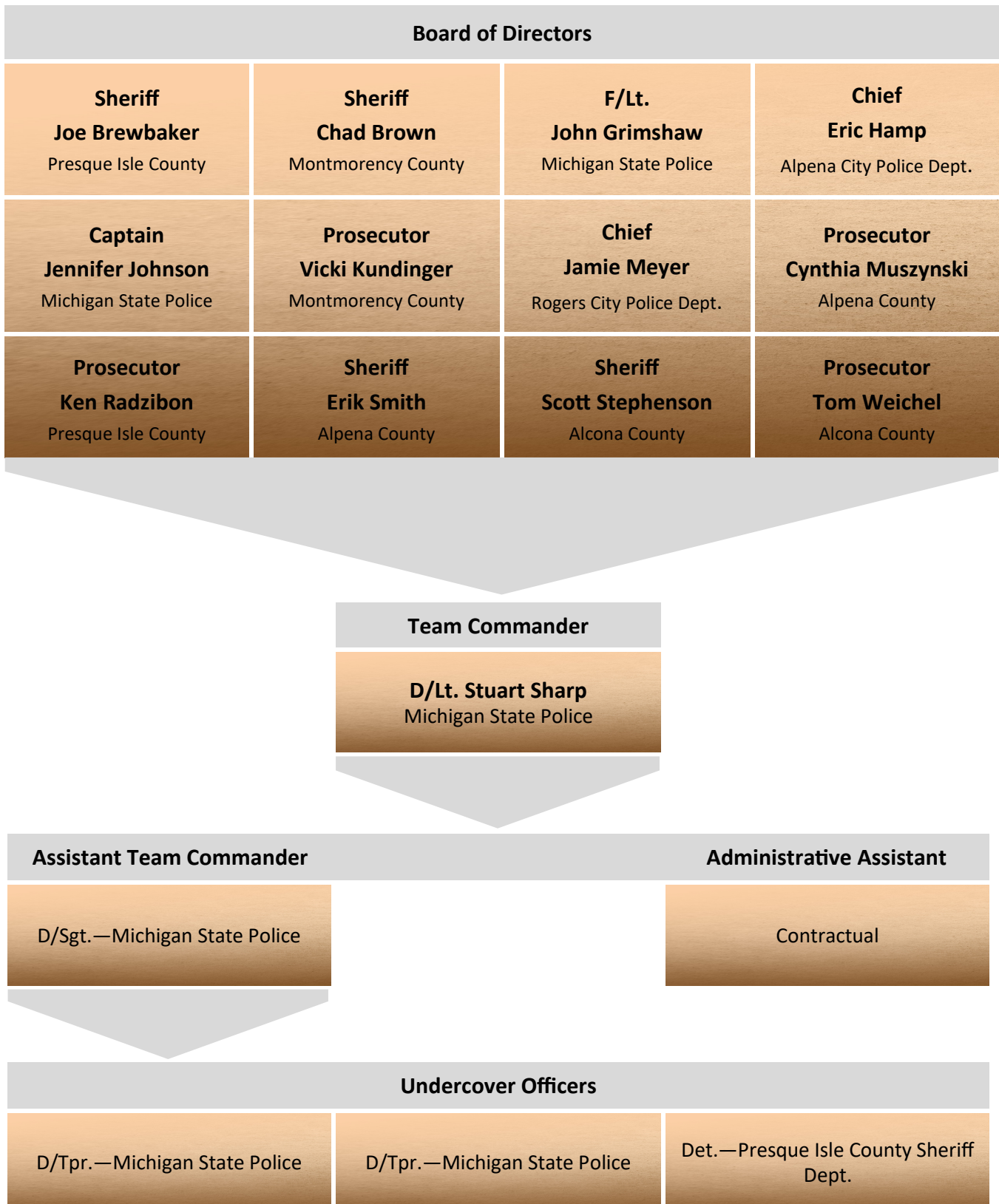
Goal 1	Goal 2
<p>Disrupt the availability of illegal drugs, specifically heroin, fentanyl, prescription opiates, methamphetamine, and cocaine.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce deaths and serious injury from drug overdoses • Reduce toll on community caused by drug trafficking • Reduce and solve drug related criminal activity 	<p>Provide other agency assistance / awareness and public awareness.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide detective support/assistance to partner agencies. • Provide drug trend information to other agencies. • Increase public awareness of drug trends and drug/lab identification.

Member Participation

Member Entity	Advisory Board Member	Funding	In-Kind Provisions
Alcona County	Carolyn Brummund	\$8,000	
Alpena City	Matt Waligora	\$8,000	
Alpena County	Jesse Osmer	\$8,000	Fiduciary Services
Michigan State Police			4 Full-time Officers, Office Space, Utilities
Montmorency County	Don Edwards	\$8,000	
Presque Isle County	Michael Darga	\$8,000	One Full-Time Officer (partial year)
Rogers City	Ken Bielas	\$5,000	

* Additional funding: \$119,538 from Byrne Jag Grant

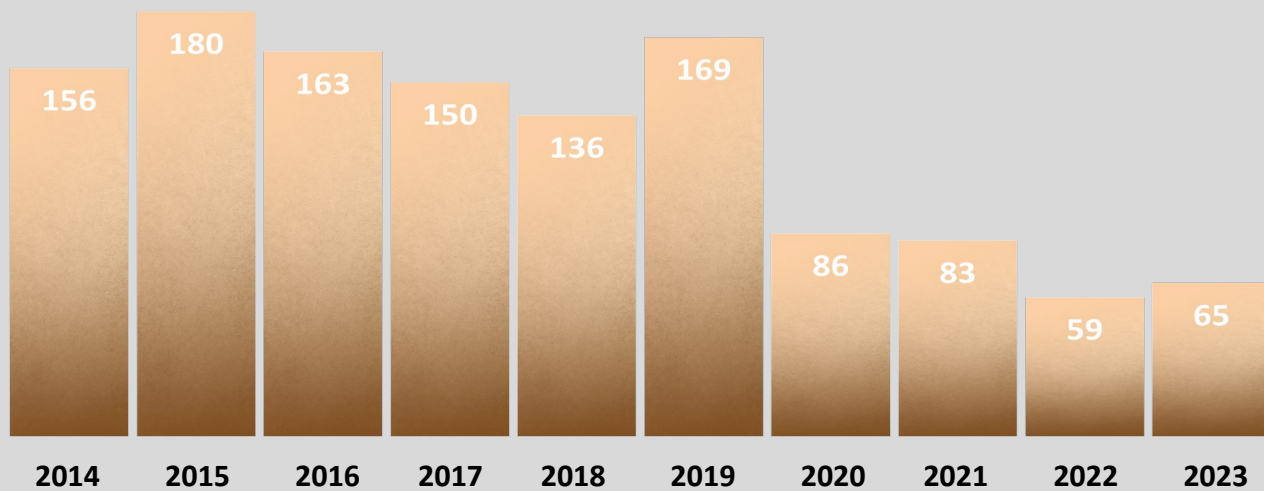
Org Chart



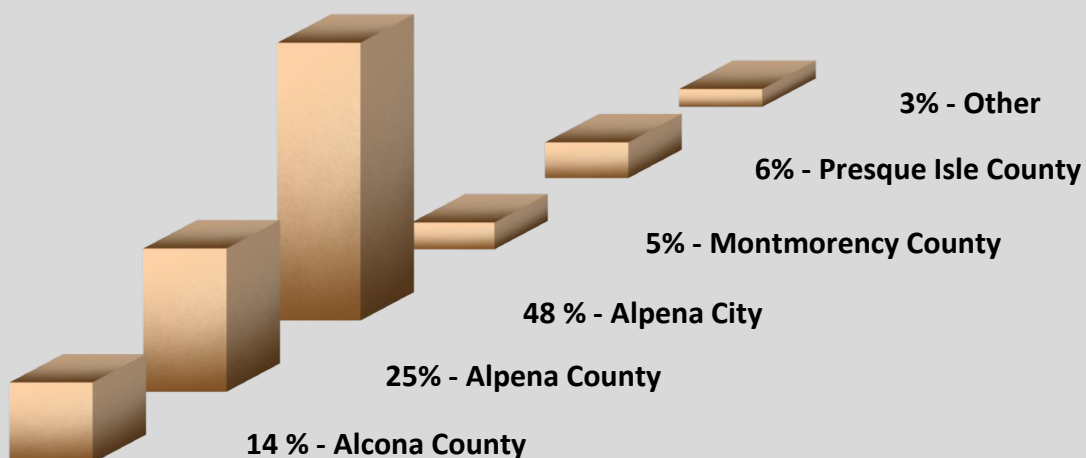
3

Investigations

Total Annual Investigations



Investigations by Jurisdiction



Substances Involved in Drug-Related Investigations

51

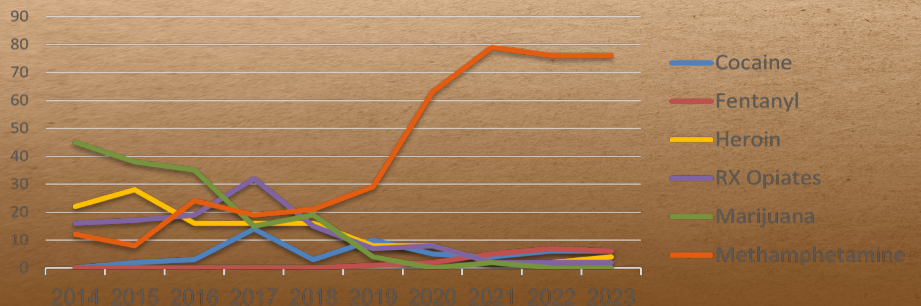
Drug Related Investigations

Methamphetamine	39
Cocaine	3
Fentanyl	3
Heroin	2
Opiates	1
Other	3

76%

Involved
Methamphetamine

Trends—The last 10 years show methamphetamine investigations rising significantly while prescription opiates and marijuana declined.



Non-Drug-Related Investigations

8

Fugitives Located

Eight investigations were initiated pertaining to the location of wanted fugitives, with those 8 individuals being located and arrested.

6

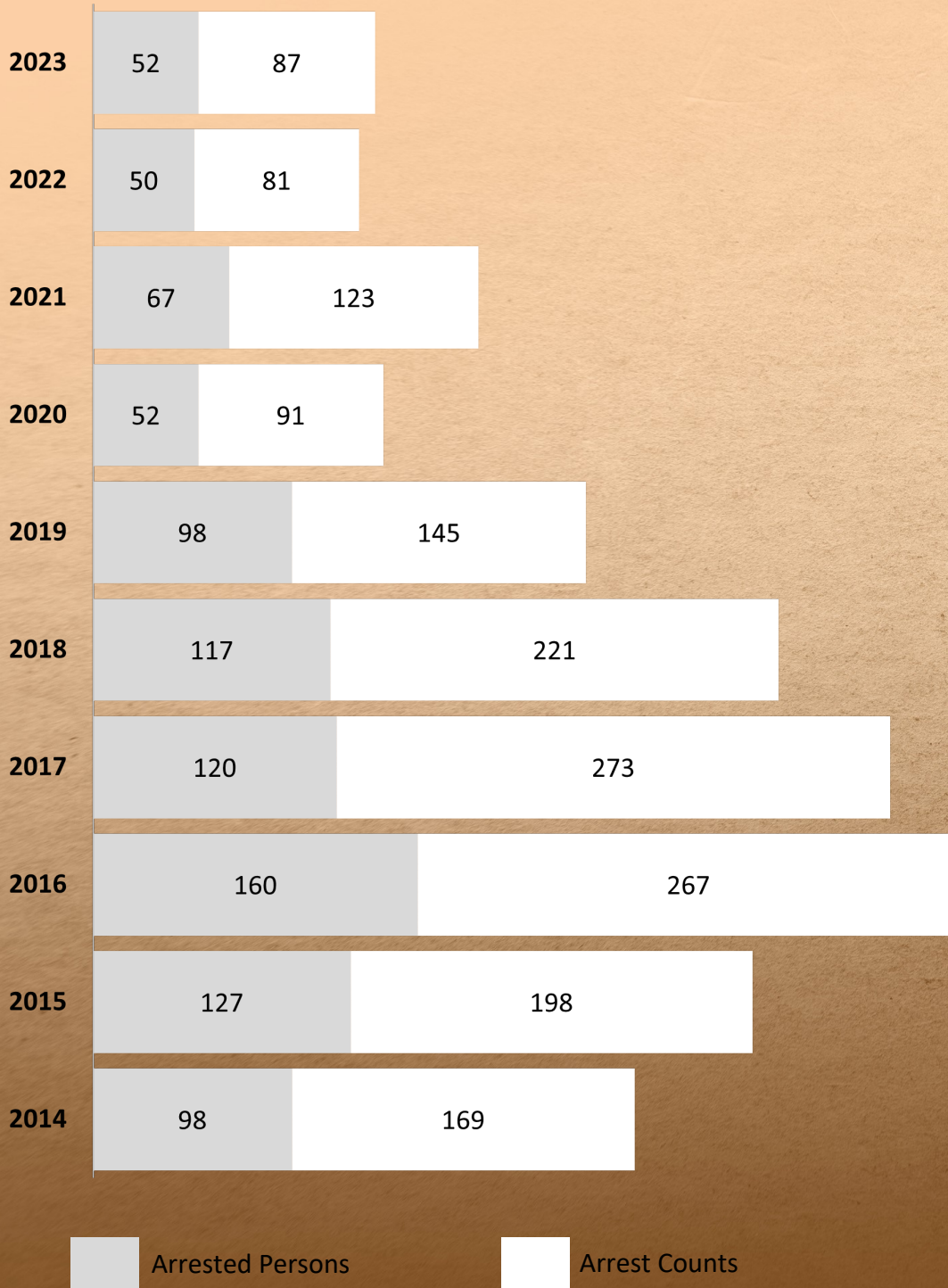
Other Non-Drug Cases

HUNT was able to assist other agencies on a child exploitation case, a domestic violence / armed subject case, and several search warrants. Non-drug HUNT cases involved homicide, child sexually abusive material, and weapons offenses.

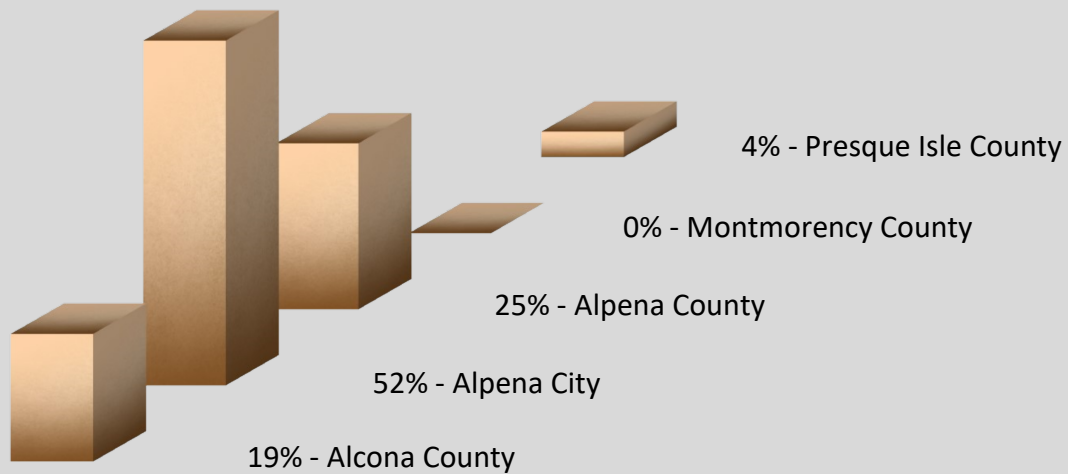
4

Arrests

Total Annual Arrests



Arrests by Jurisdiction



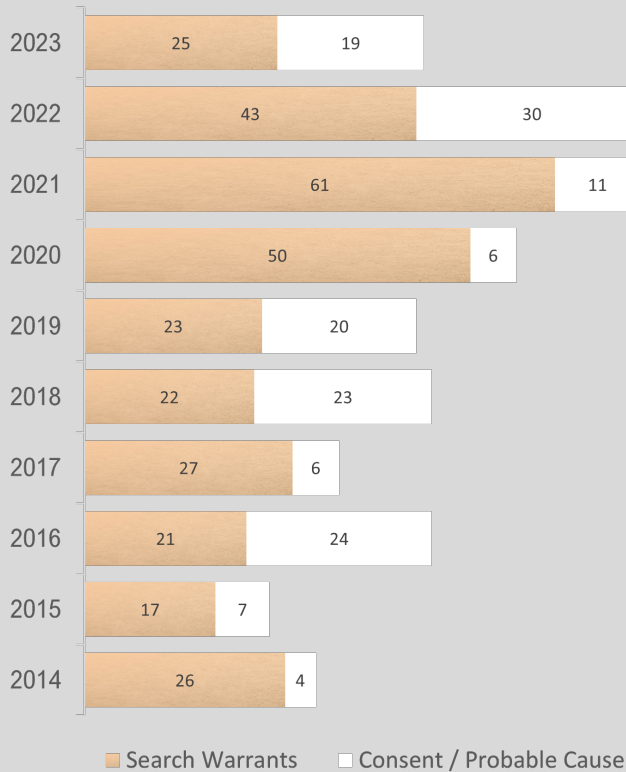
Arrest Tiers

	Quantity of Drugs Involved / Circumstances	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Tier 1	Less than 20 grams or 10 units	18	22	20	19	19
Tier 2	20-49 grams or 10-99 units / including weapons / habitual offender / conspiracy	29	13	25	11	14
Tier 3	50-399 grams or 100-999 units / resulting in overdose death	2	2	10	6	10
Tier 4	over 400 grams or 1,000 units	0	1	0	2	0
	Fugitive and Other Non-Drug Related Arrests	49	14	12	12	9

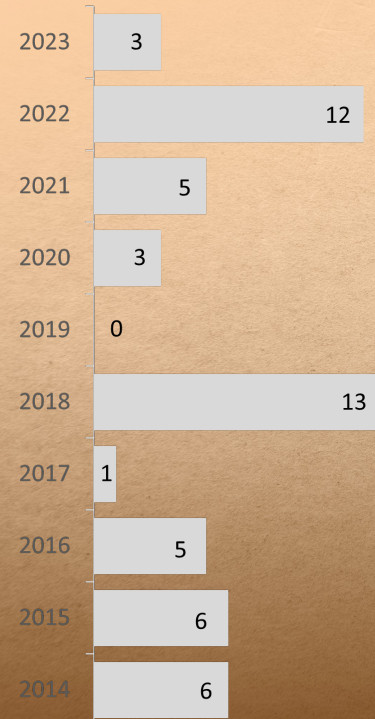
5

Searches / Seizures

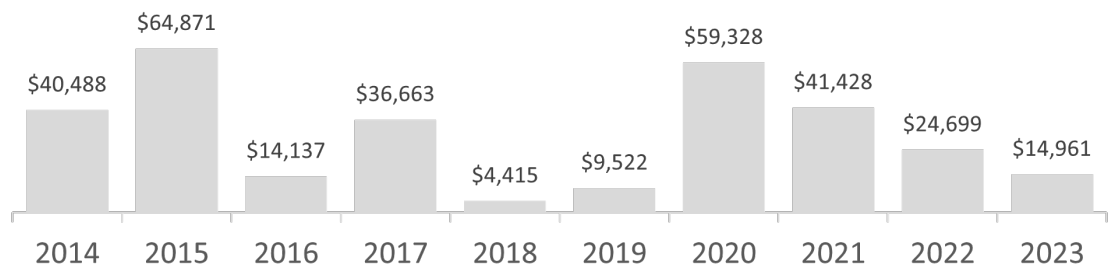
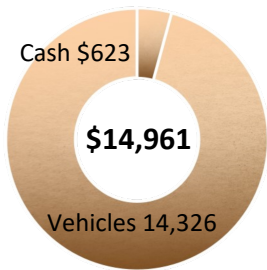
Searches



Firearms Seized

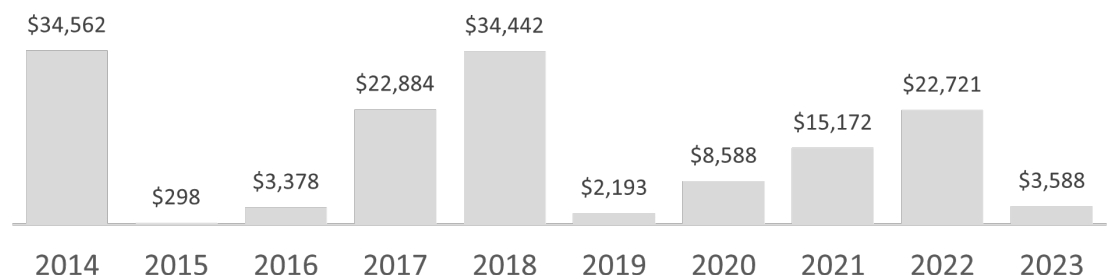
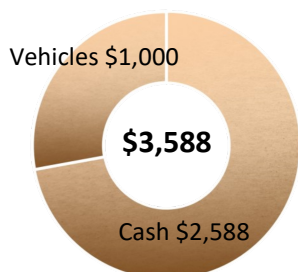


Seized Property



Forfeiture Proceeds

(Forfeiture proceeds may include the sale of items that were seized during previous years)

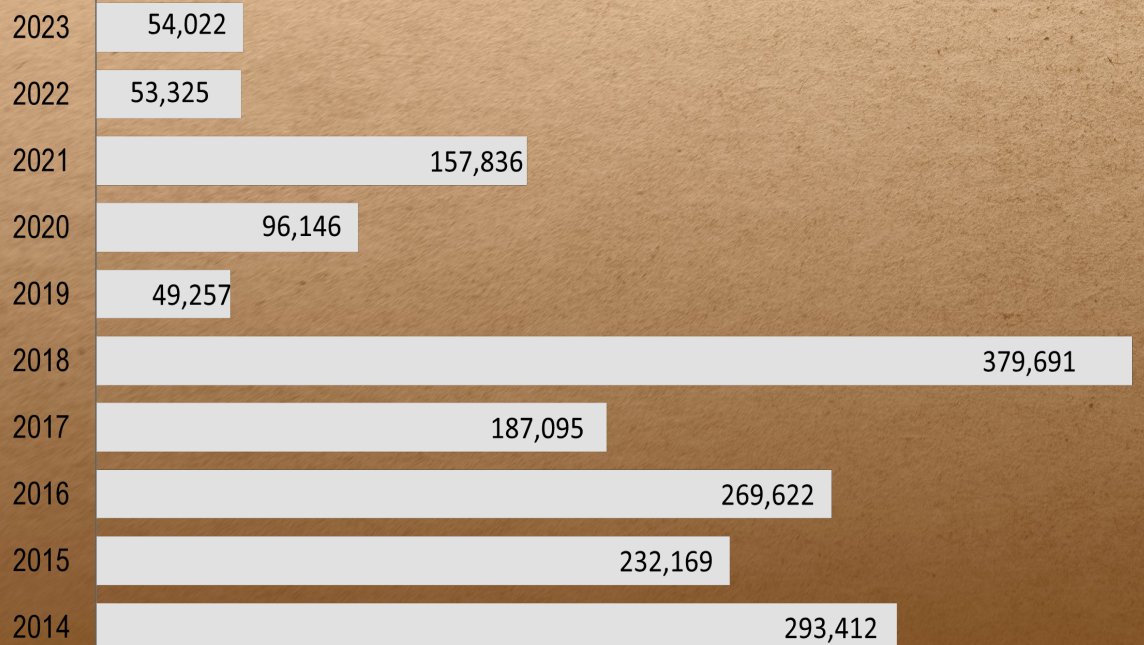


Drugs Seized

DRUG	QUANTITY	STREET VALUE
Cocaine	5.7 Grams	570
Ecstasy	24 Units	600
Fentanyl	17.8 Grams	1,780
Heroin	50.5 Grams	12,625
Methamphetamine	376.11 Grams	37,611
Prescription Opiates	26 Units	285
Non-Scheduled Substances	4 Units, 543 Grams	551
		54,022

\$54,022

Street Value of Drugs Seized



6

Significant Activity

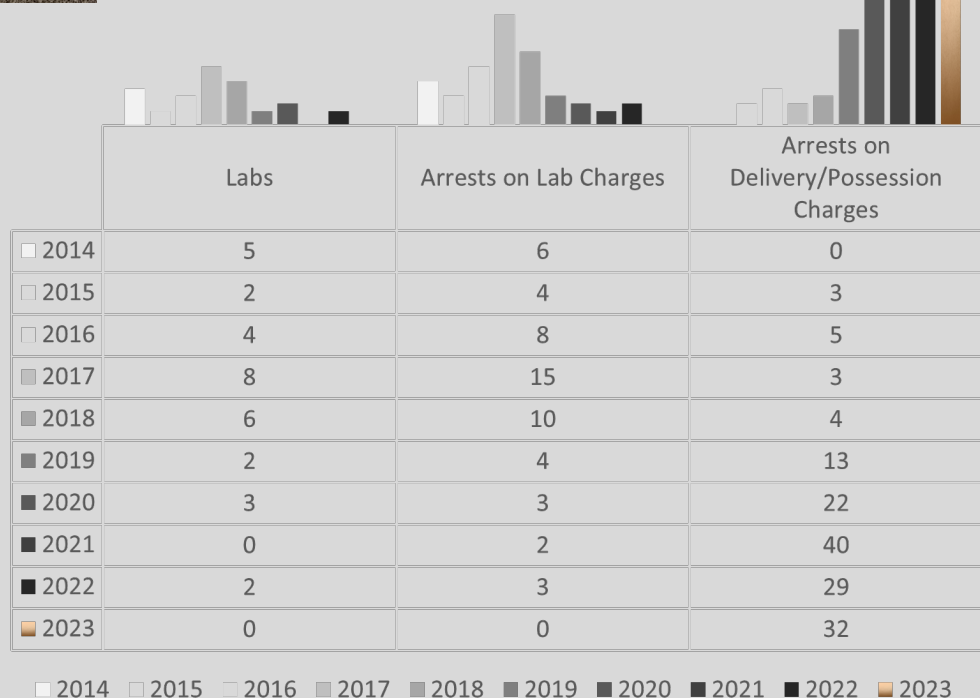
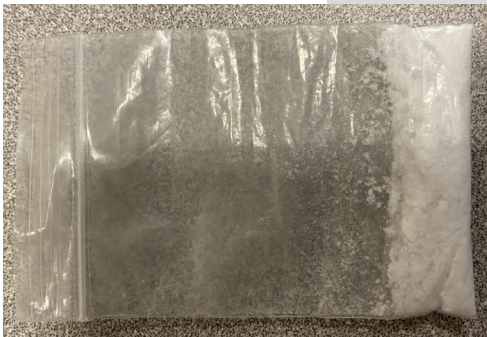
Crystal Meth

Crystal meth continues to be the most prevalent drug seized/investigated by the team. The drug is highly addictive and its use is known to cause combative, violent behavior as well as paranoia, anxiety, confusion, and insomnia.



Meth is typically smoked with glass pipes, but can be injected. An overdose of meth can cause seizures, high body temperature, irregular heartbeat, heart attack, stroke, and death.

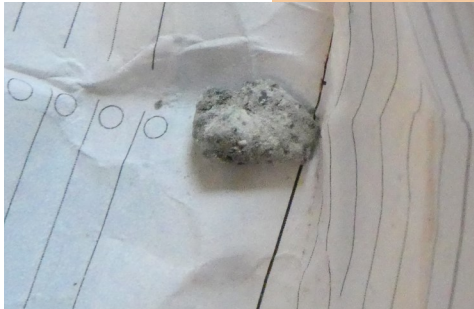
Local meth labs have decreased over the past several years with the trafficking of the drug from Mexican criminal groups being the more common means of obtaining the drug. In Michigan, the bulk of the drug lands in the larger cities such as Saginaw, Flint, and Detroit, and is then distributed through criminal networks until it reaches the streets of our area. During 2023 meth was the focus of 76% of the team's drug related investigations. The chart below shows the decline in meth labs and the rise in delivery/trafficking charges.



Flint / Alpena Trafficking Conspiracy



HUNT detectives learned through an informant that a female from Alpena was making trips to the Flint, Michigan area and back, for the purpose of trafficking narcotics. The informant advised that this was a consistent movement of narcotics by this female who would be traveling with other unknown individuals, and they would stay at an Alpena hotel and sell the drugs from the room. Subsequent surveillance and investigation led to the location of this female suspect on what was suspected to be a return trip from Flint. A traffic stop was conducted on the vehicle after it crossed into Alpena County. Discovered in the vehicle were the suspect and two other individuals, as well as over 62 grams of methamphetamine, over 6 grams of heroin, and 24 tablets of ecstasy. The suspect and both passengers were arrested for possession with intent to deliver narcotics.



While the female suspect was incarcerated, she began to receive multiple calls from a male subject from the Flint, Michigan area. Further investigation led to the identification of the Flint individual and his vehicle. Subsequent surveillance led to the location of his vehicle travelling northbound into Alpena County. A traffic stop was conducted on his vehicle, leading to the seizure of over 80 grams of methamphetamine, as well as 4 cellular phones and the vehicle. Both this subject (driver) and his passenger were arrested and charged with possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine.



Forensic examination of the seized cellular telephones led to evidence of a homicide, subsequently turned over to the appropriate downstate major crimes unit, as well as evidence of CSAM (child sexually abusive material). The Flint subject, while still incarcerated on the possession with intent to deliver charges, was then arrested and charged by HUNT with 5 counts of CSAM and one count using a computer to commit a crime. Additionally, he has been charged federally with 3 counts of CSAM, and the Flint unit charged him with 9 counts including criminal sexual conduct, kidnapping, human trafficking, and CSAM.

6

Significant Activity

6 Arrested for Delivery of Meth

Early in the year, HUNT detectives arranged a controlled purchase of methamphetamine with a female Alpena resident who had been arrested by HUNT in the past for possession of meth. This methamphetamine was then delivered by a second suspect, also known to have a drug history.

A second controlled purchase was then arranged with suspect #1, with the money being provided to suspect #3 who was to transfer the money to suspect #4 who lived in Greenbush, Michigan and would actually procure the meth. This transaction ended in the theft of the money and no drugs being delivered.

A third controlled purchase was then arranged, again with suspect #1, but this time delivered by suspect #5.

The next day, suspect #5 was surveilled on a trip to Bay City and back. When the vehicle reached Alpena County, a traffic stop was conducted during which over 29 grams of methamphetamine was found and seized. Suspect #5, along with her passenger, suspect #6 were arrested for possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine and conspiracy to deliver methamphetamine.

Now, a fourth controlled purchase was arranged with suspect #1, and this time she delivered the drugs herself. A search warrant was then conducted at suspect #1's residence, where 7.2 grams of meth was seized, along with digital scales, packaging materials, ammunition, and firearms. At the residence, suspect #1 was arrested and charged with 2 counts conspiracy to deliver meth, 2 counts delivery of meth, 2 counts felony firearms, and maintaining a drug house. Suspect #2 who also resided at the residence was arrested and charged with conspiracy to deliver meth, delivery of meth, and maintaining a drug house. Suspect #3 (suspect #2's son) was arrested and charged with conspiracy to deliver meth, possession of diazepam, 2 counts felony firearms, and maintaining a drug house. Suspect #4, from Greenbush was subsequently arrested and charged with conspiracy to deliver meth.

All six suspects were ultimately convicted and sentenced to the following:

Suspect #1 – 85 months to 20 years in prison

Suspect #2 – 12 months jail

Suspect #3 – 50 months to 20 years in prison

Suspect #4 – 51 months to 20 years in prison

Suspect #5 – 18 months to 20 years in prison

Suspect #6 – 18 months to 20 years in prison



Cross-County Trafficking

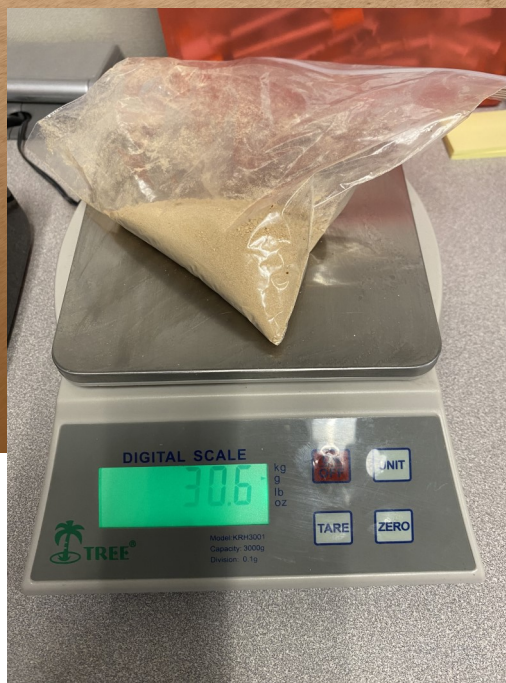
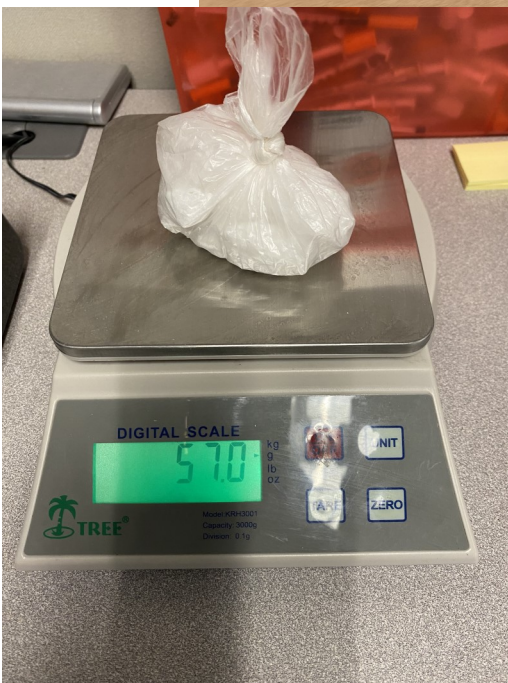
A HUNT officer made an undercover purchase in Rogers City, of 20 grams of meth and 8.2 grams of heroin, while a controlled purchase from the same individual was conducted by an informant, of 4.1 grams of cocaine.

The suspect from Saginaw, was believed to be a member of the Haitian Gang. He advised that he was interested in expanding his customer base in Northern Michigan. While making arrangements for a second undercover purchase, the suspect advised that he wished to set up the location closer to the expressway.

The second undercover purchase from the same suspect, was conducted in Glennie, and consisted of 57 grams of meth and 30.6 grams of heroin. Following that purchase, as the suspect departed, a traffic stop was conducted and the suspect was arrested. He was charged in Alcona County with delivery of heroin and delivery of meth. He was charged in Presque Isle County with delivery of heroin, delivery of meth, and delivery of cocaine.

The suspect has since been convicted in Alcona County and sentenced to 18 months to 20 years in prison. He is still pending arrest in Presque Isle.

His driver from the Presque Isle trip was charged with delivery of heroin, delivery of meth, and delivery of cocaine. He was convicted and sentenced to 13 months to 15 years in prison.



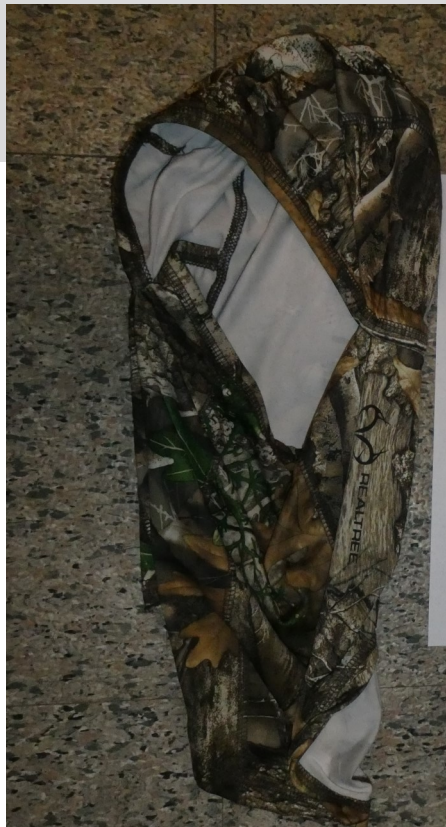
6

Significant Activity

With Bad Intentions

In October, a HUNT detective was in contact with a suspect from the Bay City area, in reference to the purchase (undercover) of methamphetamine. After many communications, arrangements were made to meet this individual in Glennie, where the undercover officer would purchase 4 ounces of methamphetamine from him for one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). On the evening of the purchase, officers became suspicious as communications with the suspect while travelling northbound indicated that there were multiple people in his vehicle.

HUNT requested the assistance of the MSP Emergency Support Team, the Alcona County Sheriff Department, and the canine officer from the MSP Alpena Post. As the suspect arrived at the buy location in Glennie, the Emergency Support Team initiated a traffic stop at which time the vehicle occupants were detained. The driver of the vehicle was the initial suspect and was the only person visible. Two other suspects were hidden below the windows, one with a camouflage mask on and the other with the same type of mask nearby him. No methamphetamine was found in the vehicle. All three suspects were arrested on open warrants and probation detainers out of Bay City. None of them would consent to an interview. It is suspected that these suspects did not intend to sell narcotics that evening, but instead intended to rob the undercover officer of the thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) that he would have with him for the purchase.





HUNT continues to maintain a web site at www.huntteam.net. The site provides information and resources related to drug use/abuse treatment as well as an avenue to provide anonymous tips.

During 2023, the site was visited 847 times with a total of 199 anonymous tips being sent to HUNT detectives.

Huron Undercover Narcotics Team

2023 Annual Report